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Ray's Lawyer Says Witness Could Prove an Alibi

PETROS, Tenn., May 3 (UPI)—An attorney for James Earl Ray said today that there was a witness who could place Mr. Ray at a service station on the afternoon that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was assassinated in Memphis on April 4, 1968.

The attorney, Jack Kershaw, made the comment before he and the House Assassinations Committee staff members were closeted for the fifth time with Mr. Ray at Brushy Mountain State Prison here, where he is serving a 99-year sentence after pleading guilty to slaying the civil rights leader.

Mr. Kershaw said that a man named "Raoul," for whom Mr. Ray was working, told him to go out to a movie on the afternoon Dr. King was shot. Instead, Mr. Ray went to get a spare tire fixed, the lawyer said.

"There was a person who remembers him, and has made a statement," Mr. Kershaw added. He did not elaborate on whether the witness could place Mr. Ray at the service station about 6 P.M., the time Dr. King was killed. The witness was not identified.